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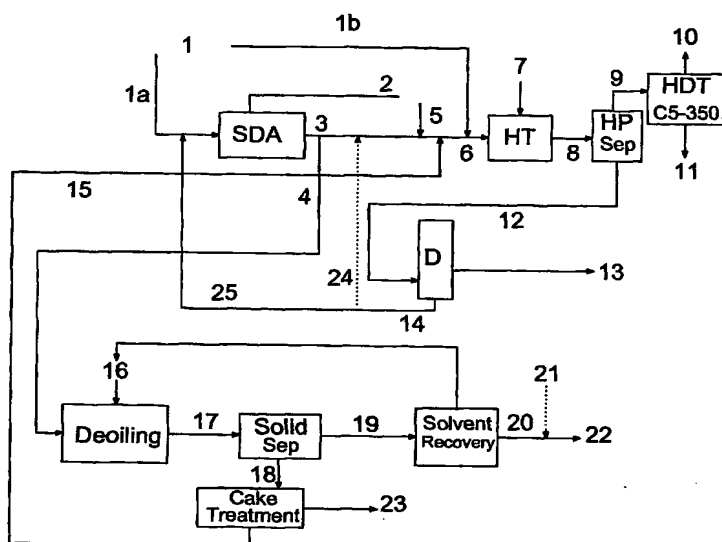
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CONVERSION OF HEAVY FEEDSTOCKS SUCH AS HEAVY CRUDE OILS AND DISTILLATION RESIDUES



(57) Abstract: Process for the conversion of heavy feedstocks selected from heavy crude oils, distillation residues, heavy oils coming from catalytic treatment, thermal tars, oil sand bitumens, various kinds of coals and other high-boiling feedstocks of a hydrocarbon origin known as black oils, by the combined use of the following three process units: hydroconversion with catalysts in slurry phase (HT), distillation or flash (D), deasphalting (SDA), comprising the following steps: • mixing at least part of the heavy feedstock and/or at least most of the stream containing asphaltene obtained in the deasphalting unit with a suitable hydrogenation catalyst and sending the mixture obtained to a hydrotreatment reactor (HT) into which hydrogen or a mixture of hydrogen and H<sub>2</sub>S is charged; • sending the stream containing the hydrotreatment reaction product and the catalyst in dispersed phase to one or more distillation or flash steps (D) whereby the different fractions coming from

the hydrotreatment reaction are separated; • recycling at least part of the distillation residue (tar) or liquid leaving the flash unit, containing the catalyst in dispersed phase, rich in metal sulfides produced by demetallation of the feedstock and possibly coke, to the deasphalting zone (SDA) in the presence of solvents, optionally also fed with at least a fraction of the heavy feedstock, obtaining two streams, one consisting of deasphalted oil (DAO) and the other containing asphaltene, characterized in that a fraction of the stream containing asphaltene, coming from the deasphalting section (SDA), called flushing stream, is sent to a treatment section with a suitable solvent for the separation of the product into a solid fraction and a liquid fraction from which said solvent can be subsequently removed.